

QGIS Application - Feature request #15537

Inconsistent Usage of Field Aliases

2016-09-06 02:26 PM - Spencer Gardner

Status:	Open	Resolution: Copied to github as #: 23460
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Category:	Unknown	
Pull Request or Patch supplied:	No	
Easy fix?:	No	
Description		
<p>I recently worked with a map where another user had defined aliases on a couple of fields. While trying to build expressions in the field calculator and other contexts I became confused because the alias names that I saw in the attribute table were not available in the expression builder. After some searching (and panic over the thought that the shapefile was corrupted) I realized that the expression builder refers to fields by their actual name without any reference to the alias. Since I wasn't aware that aliases had been set it didn't occur to me to check there.</p> <p>It is highly confusing to use column aliases in some contexts and actual names in other contexts. To improve user experience this should be unified. There was a mailing list conversation in 2014 <https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-developer/2014-September/034551.html> about this issue but as far as I can tell nothing was done about it.</p> <p>There seem to be good arguments for using actual names and for using aliases so I think the best solution will need to accommodate both usage patterns. What is clear is that using aliases in some contexts and not in others is not an intuitive design.</p> <p>Has this been discussed more recently than my 2014 reference? If not, the API changes to 3.0 might be a good opportunity to tackle this usability issue.</p>		

History

#1 - 2017-05-01 12:46 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- Easy fix? set to No

#2 - 2017-09-22 09:55 AM - Jürgen Fischer

- Category set to Unknown